

This note is to urge you to reject petition 04-160. Satellite radio is a private service for which I pay. I choose to pay for this and other services offered by XM Radio and in return receive value far, far in excess of that provided by traditional broadcasting. XM's traffic and weather is a distinctly different service than offered by local broadcasters in that 1) it is available on demand simply by changing radio channels, 2) its content is clear, succinct, and to the point, and 3) it is available only to those who choose to pay for it. The availability of the service is a definite boon to the consumer since I can learn about traffic problems virtually immediately while driving rather than waiting for the once-in-30-minutes traffic reports offered by local broadcasters. Losing that service would be a sorry step backwards and would constitute a disservice to public.

Since instant traffic and weather is a part of a private transaction between myself and XM Radio I cannot imagine what rational foundation the National Association of Broadcasters can have for objecting to it. I find all of XM's services far superior to those offered by traditional broadcasters and am happy to pay the monthly fee to avoid the endless commercials and predictable personalities on the local airwaves here in Tampa. I myself have not listened to traditional radio broadcasting since purchasing my XM radio over a year ago. Undoubtedly this is the inspiration for NAB's objection, and if granted it would result in a profound disservice to that portion of the public willing to pay for quality listening.